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November 20, 2002

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Phoenix – Today, officials from Maricopa County Public Health and Environmental Services' Departments announced preliminary results from recent testing performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These results are in regards to water samples taken from Rose Valley and Peoria water systems to test for the *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba.

Six water samples were delivered to the Centers for Disease Control on November 5. Five samples from Rose Valley Water system and one sample from a well from the Peoria water system. After two weeks of culturing, three samples came back negative for the amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*, two are still being cultured, and one came back positive for the amoeba.

The sample that came back positive for *Naegleria fowleri* was taken from the Westbrook well in the Peoria water system. This well has been not been in use since the water sampling was performed on November 3rd.

Chlorination is sufficient to kill this organism. When the well is in use, water flows from this well to a chlorination system before reaching residents. Therefore, residents have always been receiving safe, chlorinated water.

"Let me reassure residents again," says Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, "the water currently being delivered to Peoria residents is safe. Chlorination kills the harmful organism."

Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch, Director of Maricopa County's Public Health Department confirmed that there have been no new reported cases of amoebic meningitis since the deaths of two Peoria boys on October 12. He added that we are well past the incubation period for the organism.

In response to this latest round of testing, the County is working with all public water system operators and will be asking that they consider chlorination as well as perform additional total coliform testing on their systems.

A County hotline has been established at 602-506-6616 that offers emergency numbers to answer questions from residents. A recorded message also is available at 602-506-1040. For questions about health issues call 602-506-6900 during normal business hours.

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